

There is an old adage that says, "Silence is golden." Much has been written — most of it true — concerning the evils of the tongue and the care that should be exercised with reference to our speech. There is probably no subject more frequently discussed in God's word than this. On the other hand, grievous wrong is often done by saying nothing when something ought to be said. Another familiar saying is, "Silence gives consent." Silence is often the refuge of the coward and the compromiser. It is quite often an effective means in perpetuating a vicious lie. Many an individual, who would not think of voicing a vicious falsehood about his neighbor, will give consent to and assist in perpetuating such a lie by silence — when a word from him could have corrected and stopped the matter. Many permit Satan's lies to triumph over God's truth by their silence at vital moments. Well did Robert Louis Stevenson write: "The cruelest lies are often told in silence." -- Selected

"...there is a time to keep silence and a time to speak..."

~ Ecclesiastes 3:7b

NAVARRE NEWS AND NOTES: Please remember in your prayers: **Starr Wilkins, Jim Wetzstein, Debbie Kingsmill, Carrie Hare, Sister Gerry Wiemert, Kenny Cauley** will be having back surgery on August 1st. Continue to remember **Houston Perry** as he serves in military duty in Iraq.

We meet on James M Harvell Rd next to the public library in Navarre. Call us for directions and more information (850) 939-8109



Navarre church of Christ
8490 James M Harvell Rd
Navarre, FL 32566

Place Stamp Here

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES
Sunday

Bible Class for all ages.....9:00 AM
Morning Worship Service.....10:00 AM
Evening Worship Service 6:00 PM

Wednesday
Bible Class for all ages.....7:00 PM

VISITORS ARE WELCOME!

If you know of someone who would like to receive this publication, please let us know.

For a free Bible correspondence course by mail, call us.

Navarre Messenger



"Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee." Matthew 11:1

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Thought To Ponder

A Christian is one who does not have to consult his bank book to see how wealthy he really is!



Luke 16:11
Luke 12:16-21
Mark 10:24-25
Romans 2:4; 11:33
Ephesians 2:7; 3:8
1 Timothy 6:17-19

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Jim Bell
Evangelist & Editor

THE DEATH OF A WILDCAT

Some years ago my father had a chicken and egg business in California. It wasn't a large operation, just something he and mom could care for themselves. Near the chicken houses there was a small ravine that seems to have extended to the mountains some distance away. Animals would travel it for the cover it provided them while searching for food. Once a wildcat came out of the ravine and began to attack and kill some of my father's chickens. The big cat was not afraid of my father's presence, but continued his pursuit of the chickens, even when he returned from the house with a shotgun and pulled the trigger on the largest wildcat my father had ever seen. Where was that animal instinct that should have warned him of danger? What happened to those keen senses that animals have? Was it all blocked out by the desire to kill and eat?

Perhaps this illustration will help us to understand why some people will not hear the gospel when it taught. They can laugh at the mention of death and the

judgment. The thought of hell doesn't cause them to tremble. There is only one thing that is one their mind, the here and now. In a poll taken some time back, it found that only one out of five is chiefly concerned with preparing for eternity. It this Gallup poll 20% said their foremost concern is preparing for a future life. 46% said they're living comfortably here and now. 30% tired to straddle the fence by saying, "both". 4% said they didn't know. The least surprising statistic is that poor are twice as likely as rich people to focus their thoughts on what lies beyond the grave.

Satan has so many distractions that dull our senses and make us unaware that death and the judgment draws nearer every day. For some it is eat, drink, and be merry, chase the world and feed those lust, until they are taken from this life with only torment to know forever. For the wildcat, his life was over when the trigger was pulled: but for man it is just the beginning in another realm. Let us use our time to the glory of God and the salvation of our souls and those we come in contact with. Surely, our lives are to be lived on a higher plane than just gratifying fleshly lusts like an animal. —Doug Matlock, *Gospel Power*

Check us out on the internet: www.navarrechurchofchrist.net

HISTORY SAYS: CONGREGATIONAL SINGING

In the *Old Path Guide* of July, 1879, Frank G. Allen, in an article entitled, "The Church-Its Worship," and under the heading, "Singing," wrote:

"Their singing was a real *heart-service*, and consisted of "*psalms and hymns, and spiritual songs*" (Eph. 5:19, 20; Col. 3:16). In this delightful service, the whole congregation doubtless took part. "The psalms of David were chiefly used in the ancient church."

It has been contended recently, that the singing of the first churches was not congregational, and therefore our congregational singing is as unauthorized as any musical performance in the worship. The facts of history are clearly against this statement. In his *Ancient Christianity Exemplified*, than which no work known to us contains more reliable information with reference to the primitive Church, Dr. Lyman Coleman says:

"The prevailing mode of singing during the first three centuries was *congregational*. The whole congregation united their voices in the sacred song of praise in strains suited to their ability....The most ancient and the most common mode of singing was confessedly for the whole assembly, men, women, and children, to blend their voices in their songs of praise in the great congregation. Such is the testimony of Hilary of Augustine and Chrysostom." "Formerly all came together and united in their song, as is still our custom." "Men and women, the aged and the young, were distinguished only by their skill in singing, for the spirit which led the voice of each



Speaking to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing and

making melody in your heart to the Lord. "Ephesians 5:19

one, blended all in one harmonious melody."

Comments: Not history, *not* quotations from ancient authorities (no matter their esteemed integrity and reliability, nor the depth of their scholastic credibility), *but the Scriptures* are our authority (Col. 3:16, 17; 1 Pet. 4:11). Yet, it is refreshing to view again another testimony to the divine plan as announced and pronounced by the Spirit of God and followed by the saints throughout the sorrowing centuries. The echoes of the songs of Zion resound and reverberate down through the corridors of time. Their melody is picked up by the ear of faith and put to the lips of the faithful who sing anew the timeless songs of both antiquity and eternity. May it ever be so. Then, on the other side of the moon and stars, when we blend our voices with angelic armies and heavenly hosts and sing the song of Moses and the Lamb, it will indeed ever be so!

— by Larry Ray Hafley
Pruett and Lobit Street Bulletin



THE POWER OF SIMPLICITY

Jesus Christ had a deep appreciation for simple things. His teaching was profound, but always simple. He reached the hearts of His hearers, not with high-sounding philosophical jargon, but with illustrations and "to the point" teaching. He could see in a farmer sowing his seed, or a lily showing forth its beauty, or a shepherd leaving his flock to seek one lost sheep, or a loving father welcoming a wayward son, a lesson that could teach some spiritual truth.

His apostles were chosen from the humble class. He could appreciate people, not for what they possessed, but for what they were; and, in some cases, not for what they were, but for what they could become. He recognized true quality, and true quality is often found in the simple and humble.

The worship He ordained was simple in nature. "Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul... spoke to them ..." (Acts 20:7). Even the poorest could worship, for all that was required of a material nature was a little bread and fruit of the vine. Those of little talent could worship, for God was listening in view of the heart rather than the beauty of the voice.

He authorized a simple organization for His church, with each congregation appointing its own bishops and deacons (Philippians 1:1). There were no denominational associations, conferences, or synods. There were no inter-church organizations or societies. Yet, through the simple organization given the church by the Lord, the world of the first century was thoroughly evangelized and the needy among them provided for. The Lord knew that success in His work would not be brought about through

complexity of organization, but through dedication, faith, and commitment on the part of His followers. We make a terrible mistake when we try to substitute the former for the latter.

Why this simplicity? "That no flesh should glory in His presence" (1 Corinthians 1:29). The complex systems which men devise tend to bring glory to themselves rather than to God.

To return to the simplicity which our Lord ordained might not be impressive to the worldly-minded, but, then, Jesus Himself is not very impressive to the worldly-minded. Besides, our purpose is not to impress the worldly-minded, but to please God and bow in submission to His will. Let us do away with our super projects and complex systems. Let us learn to appreciate simple teaching and simple ways. Above all, let us learn to appreciate Bible teaching and Bible ways.

We like the following quote from Ed Harrell: "How foolish we are to think that God will be impressed with our voices when we sing; after all, He hears the angels sing! How foolish to think He will be impressed with our cathedrals; remember, He made the Grand Canyon!" What He is seeking for is a heart that is pure, loving, and obedient to His will. And that's simple.

- Bill Hall
via The Charlottesville Beacon

"God is a spirit, and they that worship Him, must worship Him in spirit and in truth." John 4:24

